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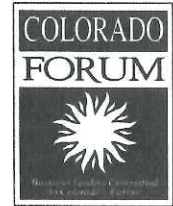
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January 23, 2013

Colorado General Assembly
 200 East Colfax
 Denver, Colorado 80203



Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

The Colorado Forum is a 35 year old membership organization of CEOs and leading professionals representing disparate regions of the state and speaking from various points on the political spectrum. We operate by 100% consensus and we will take a position on a state issue only if each of our members supports it. For the past three years, our members have voted unanimously to support the ASSET Bill.

We believe the ASSET Bill is good for Colorado for the following reasons:

- We need to grow our educated workforce to attract businesses to Colorado and encourage our existing businesses to stay.
- The ASSET Bill benefits public colleges and universities through the unique perspectives and insights these students contribute as well as the benefit of additional tuition dollars.
- Out-of-state tuition is simply not in reach for most of these students. If college is within reach, more undocumented students will work hard and stay in high school. The bill will benefit the State as college graduates contribute more tax revenue than high school graduates and utilize fewer social services.
- The ASSET Bill offers a good return on investment. Colorado invests in the K-12 education of all students, regardless of citizenship or documentation. This investment is lost when undocumented students – some of our brightest – leave Colorado for states, like Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, where they are permitted to pay in-state tuition to attend college.

We understand the concern of some of our colleagues who worry about whether students who are currently undocumented will be able to obtain jobs after they graduate from college. In response to that concern we offer the following:

- Immigration laws may be less restrictive when these students graduate.
- We already invest in undocumented students through their K-12 education. We lose the value of that investment if we don't allow these students to maximize their academic potential.
- A college education is a pre-requisite for many jobs in today's work environment here or in other countries. There is no advantage to the State, the student, our academic institutions, or the country to turn away a motivated student who is prepared to pay in-state tuition to learn more and develop expertise.

The members of the Colorado Forum respectfully request that you vote to pass the ASSET Bill.

Sincerely,

Gail H. Klapper
 Executive Director & Member